

the engagement at Wissembourg was 800 men, amongst whom are 18 officers

The following in the French version of the affair:—Three regiments of General Abel Douay's division, and one brigade of Light Cavalry were attacked yesterday (Thursday) at Wissembourg by very considerable forces, which had been massed on the woods bordering on the Lauter. The French troops resisted the assaults of the enemy for several hours, and then fell back upon the ridge of the Rigeonnier, which commands the line to Bitsche. General Douay was killed, and one of our guns, of which the carriage was smashed and the horses killed, fell into the hands of the enemy.

Another French account says that 10,000 men were surprised by 80,000, who attacked General Douay's division at dawn, whilst the French were taking their soup. General Douay ordered an advance. His men threw away their knapsacks and rushed under fire. The French had only three guns to oppose to the terrible artillery brought to bear on them by the enemy, and were soon driven to take shelter in the farm houses round Wissembourg. They were dislodged and crushed by numbers. The Turcos fought like lions, and charged the enemy with the bayonet. They were swept down with grape. Two regiments of the line did wonders, and experienced great loss. The terrible news disheartened our soldiers. General Douay had been killed by a shell, and General Montmarie wounded. A French regiment passing by the railroad to Hunsbach, the train was stopped, and the men plunged into the fight. The Turcos at one time got possession of eight guns after a bloody combat, and destroyed half a regiment of Husars. The guns were only recaptured after a desperate struggle.

THE BATTLE OF WOERTH.

The Crown Prince telegraphs from the—"Battlefield near Woerth, August 6th, 6 o'clock p.m.—In the victorious battle over McMahon, whose corps had been reinforced by divisions of General de Failly and Marshal Canrobert's corps, two eagles, six mitrailleuses, and about thirty cannon were captured. The number of prisoners made by us, on a first calculation, upwards of 4000. General Bore is wounded. General Kirschback commanded a corps. Heavy losses were sustained on both sides."

Despatches from the headquarters of King William, at Mayence, direct from the scene of action, state the French army is retreating along its whole line, and is in retreat into the interior. Even Saarbruck, which was occupied by the French after the famous battle of the three French divisions against three Prussian companies, has been evacuated by them. Before their departure, however, they set fire to that open and prosperous town, and in their retreat they assisted the conflagration by throwing explosive shells from the neighbouring hills.

THE BATTLE OF FORBACH.

On Friday, the 5th inst., the advanced guard of the Prussian columns had approached the Saar, and early this (Saturday) morning, Gen. Count Kemecke encountered the enemy to the west of Saarbruck, in a strong position in the hills near Spichern. He immediately commenced the attack, and upon the cannonading being heard, detachments of the Barneckow and Stupelnagel divisions hurried to the spot. General von Goben assumed the command, and after a sharp engagement succeeded in carrying by storm the position occupied by the French troops under General Frossard. General Francois and Colonel von Reubers were wounded.

Other despatches of that date state—Gen. Goben reports the following further particulars of the engagement to the west of Saarbruck:—Several hundred men of General Frossard's corps were made prisoners. According to their statements we were opposed by four divisions of the French army. The fighting did not terminate until dark. The enemy covered his retreat by a heavy artillery fire from Spichern. Gen. Steinmetz arrived towards evening and assumed command. Gen. Francois fell. Our loss is great, especially in officers. The enemy left many dead. Prince Frederick Charles proceeded to-day from Homburg to Blascastel. General Steinmetz is between Sulzbach and Saarbruck. The chief headquarters of the Prussian army are now at Kaiserlautern.

The following telegram from General Steinmetz dated 6th August has just come to hand.—"To-day, from noon till after dark, a severe and well contested battle has been fought between Saarbruck and Forbach. The 14th division commenced the engagement, and was successively supported against the enemy, who had fortified themselves, by three battalions, the battery of the 16th division, and cavalry (the telegram does not state which). The heights of Spichern, to the south of the exercise ground were taken by storm, and the enemy driven back on Forbach. While this was going on, the 13th division, opposite Volklinger, took Russlen, and by night fall established the head of the column at Forbach. General Francois was killed, very many men wounded, and a large number of prisoners from the different regiments of Frossard's corps. The number has not as yet been ascertained. I have assumed the command.—V. STEINMETZ."

The following despatches are from Berlin: August 7.—Salvos of artillery are now being fired in honor of the victory of the Prussian army.

August 6.—The following memorandum has been issued by the police:—"A number of French troops will arrive here this evening and will be at once sent further on by rail. Although we hope and expect that the Parisians will not be afforded a similar spectacle during the war, we Berliners wish to take this opportunity of showing by our calm and dignified behaviour that we know how an enemy's prisoners should be treated."

August 6.—It must be borne in mind that the French official accounts of the capture of Saarbruck are false. After its capture the French again bombarded Saarbruck without occasion or excuse. The Crown Prince is advancing from Wissembourg without experiencing any check in his march. All the villages through which he passed he found to be full of wounded Frenchmen, a proof of the severity of the Wissembourg action. Among the wounded was the Col. of the 50th regiment. The battle of Wissembourg has made a deep impression everywhere. Many French prisoners have passed through Berlin this evening, and among them are many of the dreaded Turcos. It is announced that the Hungarian deputies are preparing to issue a protest against Count Andrassy, on the ground that he has exhibited a favourable disposition to Philo-French schemes.

August 6.—800 French prisoners have passed through Frankfurt.

August 7, 10.45 a.m.—The following telegram from the Emperor Napoleon, dated Metz, Sunday, 3.30 a.m., is just published:—"My communication with MacMahon being interrupted, I had no news from him up to yesterday. It is General L'Aigle who announces to me that MacMahon has lost a

battle against considerable forces, and that he retired in good order. On another side, on the Saar, an engagement commenced about one o'clock. It did not appear to be very serious until small masses of the enemy had considerably accumulated, without, however, obliging the Second Corps to retreat. It was only between six and seven o'clock in the evening that, the masses of the enemy becoming continually more compact, the Second Corps, and the regiments which supported it, retired on the heights. The night has been quiet. I go to place myself at the centre of the position.—NAPOLEON."

11.20 a.m.—The Government have just published the following telegrams from the Emperor:—

"Metz August 7, 6 a.m.—In yesterday's engagement at Forbach (west of Saarbruck), only the 3rd Army Corps was engaged, supported by two divisions of other corps. The corps of General L'Admirault, that of General Failly, and the Imperial Guard did not take part in the fight. The engagement commenced at one o'clock, and appeared unimportant, but soon numerous troops concealed in the woods endeavoured to turn the position. At five o'clock, the Prussians seemed to be repulsed, and to have abandoned the attack, but a fresh corps arriving from Werden, on the Saar, obliged General Frossard to retreat. To-day, the troops which had found themselves divided, are concentrated on Metz. In the battle which took place near Frieseweiler, Marshal MacMahon had five divisions. The corps of General Failly was unable to join him. Only very vague details have been received. It is said that there were several charges of cavalry; but the Prussians had mitrailleuses, which caused us much havoc.—NAPOLEON."

Paris, August 7, 10.40 a.m.—A second edition of the *Official Journal* has just appeared, containing the following telegram:—"Metz, August 7, 3.30 a.m.—Marshal MacMahon has lost a battle. General Frossard on the Saar, has been compelled to fall back. The retreat is being effected in good order. All may be regained (*tout peut se retablir*).—NAPOLEON."

11.30 a.m.—A fourth despatch has been received from the Emperor Napoleon, dated "Metz, August 7, 8.25 a.m.—The morale of the troops is excellent. The retreat will be effected in good order. There is no news from General Frossard, who appeared, however, last night, in good order.—NAPOLEON."

Metz, Sunday, 3.20 a.m.—"In order to sustain us here it is necessary that Paris and France should consent to make great efforts of patriotism. Here we lose neither our coolness nor our confidence, but the trial is a serious one. Never have our soldiers been more brave. Marshal MacMahon, after the battle of Reischshoffen, near Woerth, retired, covering the road to Nancy. General Frossard's corps suffered heavily. Energetic measures are being taken for our defence. Major General Marshal Lebœuf has gone to the outposts."

Metz, Monday, 10 a.m.—General de Hally is in communication with Marshal MacMahon. The morale of the army is excellent. There has been no attack since my despatch of yesterday. In the battle of Froschweiler, 140,000 Prussians attacked Marshal MacMahon's corps, numbering only 53,000 men.—NAPOLEON.

MILITARY.—The Rifle Brigade are in general orders to embark at Quebec on the 28th inst. for England. The depot of the 60th Rifles will, on their departure, probably be moved from Ottawa to Montreal, and there await the return of the headquarters of the corps now with the Red River Expedition.